

Association Update – November 2007

Funding

The loss of EPA funding this year for the Ground Water, Source Water, and Training programs was not easy. At the time of this writing, we still do not know if the discontinued programs will be re-established in 2008. Funding for these programs is tied to federal spending bills passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. At the moment, there are several key spending bills not yet complete. When all of the spending bills are finalized, we should have a better grasp of what the future holds.

Appreciation Letters

In the past, I have mentioned the importance of appreciation letters we receive from the systems that we help. Not only do the letters let us know we are meeting the needs of water and wastewater systems, they also let the Senate, House of Representatives, and federal agencies know that we are meeting the needs of small and rural systems. Letters you send not only appear in our magazine, but we use them in reports we prepare for congressional offices and involved agencies. There have been some particularly descriptive letters lately. “Thank You” for the notes and letters that you send. They provide exceptional documentation of the services NeRWA provides to systems all across Nebraska.

Special Events

The Fall Conference was held September 11th and 12th in Gering. The board and staff always look forward to this event, which has an atmosphere all it’s own. Attendance was great, speakers were very interesting, the Gering Civic Center provided excellent meals and service as usual. I hope that everyone enjoyed the time they spent there. At the conference banquet, the NeRWA board of directors presented Randy Hellbusch with a plaque for fifteen years of outstanding service. We are grateful to Randy for his hard work and dedication to Nebraska water systems. Thank you Randy.



Caption:

During the Fall Conference, the NeRWA board presented Randy Hellbusch with a plaque for 15 years of working with small and rural water systems.

Looking To Next Year

Although there are still questions about next year's program funding, the Association will provide just as much operator training as in previous years. NeRWA has a long tradition of providing operators with training and education, and we are glad that we can continue this effort. I recently completed our 2008 training schedule. There are 30 one-day Grades 1-4 water operator sessions planned for next year. In addition, there are many Grade 6 (backflow) certification and re-certification classes and numerous wastewater classes that have been planned. Look for this information in the 2008 Training Coalition Calendar, future editions of this magazine, and keep our web address handy (www.nerwa.org). Agendas are often posted on the website as they become available. Thank you to all of the communities that will host classes next year. We look forward to working with you.